



## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for monitoring distributor activity in a supply chain management  
2 framework, comprising:
  - 3 a) receiving data from at least one store of a supply chain utilizing a network, the  
4 data relating to the sale of goods by the at least one store;
  - 5 b) generating electronic order forms based on the data for ordering goods from a  
6 plurality of distributors of the supply chain;
  - 7 c) sending the electronic order forms to the distributors so that the goods are  
8 delivered to the stores; and
  - 9 d) comparing the electronic order forms for each of the distributors for monitoring  
10 the reliance of the at least one store on each distributor.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic order forms are generated by the at  
2 least one store.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparison is accessible utilizing a network-  
2 based interface.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic order forms indicate a type of the  
2 goods, an amount of goods, and a target delivery date of the goods.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparison is used to gauge a performance of  
2 the distributors.



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- 1 7. A system for monitoring distributor activity in a supply chain management  
2 framework, comprising:
  - 3 a) logic for receiving data from at least one store of a supply chain utilizing a  
4 network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the at least one store;
  - 5 b) logic for generating electronic order forms based on the data for ordering goods  
6 from a plurality of distributors of the supply chain;
  - 7 c) logic for sending the electronic order forms to the distributors so that the goods  
8 are delivered to the stores; and
  - 9 d) logic for comparing the electronic order forms for each of the distributors for  
10 monitoring the reliance of the at least one store on each distributor.
- 1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 9. The system of claim 7, wherein the electronic order forms are generated by the at  
2 least one store.
- 1 10. The system of claim 7, wherein the comparison is accessible utilizing a network-  
2 based interface.
- 1 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the electronic order forms indicate a type of the  
2 goods, an amount of goods, and a target delivery date of the goods.
- 1 12. The system of claim 7, wherein the comparison is used to gauge a performance of  
2 the distributors.
- 1 13. A computer program product for monitoring distributor activity in a supply chain  
2 management framework, comprising:
  - 3 a) computer code for receiving data from at least one store of a supply chain  
4 utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the at least one store;
  - 5 b) computer code for generating electronic order forms based on the data for  
6 ordering goods from a plurality of distributors of the supply chain;



- 7 c) computer code for sending the electronic order forms to the distributors so that the  
8 goods are delivered to the stores; and  
9 d) computer code for comparing the electronic order forms for each of the  
10 distributors for monitoring the reliance of the at least one store on each  
11 distributor.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the  
2 Internet.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the electronic order forms  
2 are generated by the at least one store.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the comparison is accessible  
2 utilizing a network-based interface.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the electronic order forms  
2 indicate a type of the goods, an amount of goods, and a target delivery date of the  
3 goods.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the comparison is used to  
2 gauge a performance of the distributors.